

Remarks

Applicant appreciates the willingness of Examiner Choobin to discuss the outstanding rejections in a telephone interview held March 24, 2000. The following paragraphs include a summary of the substance of the interview.

At the interview, the undersigned attorney discussed the preferred embodiments, and pointed out how these embodiments used an EKG signal to store information with each acquired frame that is indicative of the phase of the physiological cycle at which the frame was acquired. This information is then used to generate various composite images (e.g. 3D images or extended field of view images) in which each image is generated from selected frames that are identified with the same respective phase as is the image.

As pointed out at the interview, this is quite different than the applied Gandini patent. The Gandini patent does not store in the imaging system information indicative of the physiological cycle phase associated with each frame. As pointed out at the interview, the paragraph at column 4, lines 46-54 refers to the images encoded in respective frames, and it does not refer to information stored in an ultrasonic imaging system to identify the physiological cycle phase of the frame.

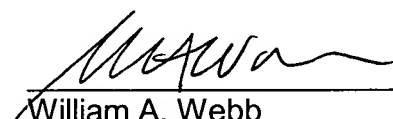
Applicant submits that the Gandini patent fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention. The independent claims have been amended to clarify that each frame is identified in an ultrasonic imaging system with a respective phase of a physiological cycle. As pointed out above, this is completely absent from the Gandini patent. Additionally, Applicant has provided new claims that focus on further advantageous features of this invention. Claim 7 and 21 emphasize that each of the frames is acquired at a respective, known phase of the physiological cycle. Claims 18 and 22 define that each of the frames is stored in a manner indicative of the respective known phase of the physiological cycle. Claims 19, 20, and 23 all define that each image is generated from selected ones of the frames identified with the same respective phase of the physiological cycle as the image. All of these features are completely absent from Gandini.

The remaining dependent claims define additional grounds for patentability. However, in view of the clear basis for patentability of all the independent claims as discussed above, Applicant submits that there is no need to discuss them at this time.

Applicant submits that in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims pending in this application are now in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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